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Report of the Human Rights Council

Letter dated 6 December 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of the Republic of Belarus in connection with the adoption by the Third Committee of the General Assembly of the resolution entitled "Report of the Human Rights Council" (see annex). I would like to request that this letter and its annex be issued as a document of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, "Report of the Human Rights Council".

(*Signed*) Andrei **Dapkiunas**

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[Original: Russian]

Annex to the letter dated 20 November 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Republic of Belarus in connection with the adoption by the Third Committee of the General Assembly of the draft resolution on the report of the Human Rights Council

Belarus appreciates the efforts of the Group of African States to further the resolution on the report of the Human Rights Council. Many of the Council's decisions and fields of endeavour, especially the universal periodic review, genuinely serve to promote and protect all categories of human rights in each and every country of the world.

At the same time, Belarus is compelled as a matter of principle to dissociate itself from the consensus on adoption of the draft resolution on the report of the Human Rights Council.

Among other things, the report of the Human Rights Council presents the activity of the Council in regard to adoption of a resolution targeting Belarus that established the politically motivated mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Belarus. These decisions of the Council have nothing to do with the actual human rights situation in Belarus and are designed to interfere in the internal affairs of the Republic of Belarus.

Both the resolution and the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Belarus have been foisted upon the international community by States members of the European Union that are promoting their political agenda within the Council. The primary purpose of the resolution and the mandate established thereby is to provide United Nations cover for deliberate anti-Government activity in Belarus. Belarus is extremely concerned by the growing practice of selective adoption of country resolutions and their use as a device to exert political pressure on sovereign States, which breaches the principles of universality, objectivity and non-selectivity.

It is unacceptable for the universal periodic review mechanism and mutually respectful dialogue among States Members of the United Nations to be supplanted by the practice of double standards catering to the interests of specific groups of States. This severely damages the reputation of the Council as the primary human rights body of the United Nations. It was this same approach to the consideration of human rights situations that caused the erstwhile Commission on Human Rights to founder.

Belarus also expresses its intent to continue constructive engagement with the Council and its special procedures thematic mandates, as well as to work with those States whose goal is to restore trust and impartiality to the work of the Council.

20 November 2012